

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus U.S. House of Representatives Jim Nussle, Chairman

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

22 March 2004

Week of 22 March 2004

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) Hydrographic Services Amendments of 2003 (H.R. 958).



This bill directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration [NOAA] to establish, equip, and maintain up to 10 regional navigation response teams. It authorizes NOAA to acquire fishery survey vessels and a hydrographic survey vessel. The bill does not increase direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or reduce revenue.

2) National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Act of 2003 (H.R. 2408).



This bill reauthorizes programs under United State Fish and Wildlife Service. The service executes cooperative agreements with organizations such as nonprofit groups. academic institutions, and State or local agencies to benefit wildlife refuges and also coordinates volunteer programs at these refuges. The bill does not increase direct spend or reduce revenue.

3) Cowlitz Indian Tribe Distribution of Judgment Funds Act (H.R. 2489).



About \$1 million in judgments and accumulated interest is being held in trust funds on behalf of the Cowlitz Indian tribe, but the Secretary of the Interior does not have the authority to distribute the funds without congressional approval. H.R. 2489 authorizes the tribe to withdraw 20 percent of the total fund to assist the elderly, and also to withdraw the interest on the fund for various other programs to benefit the tribe. In total, about \$12 million would be withdrawn. Because the tribe is the official owner of the trust fund (even though the government administers it) the bill does not increase direct spend or reduce revenue.

4) Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act (H.R. 3926). This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to permit the award



of grants to certain entities for the purpose of providing reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses and such incidental nonmedical expenses incurred by individuals toward making living donations of their organs. At the time of publication a cost estimate was not available. All costs in the bill are subject to appropriations, and enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

5) Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives That There Is a Critical Need to Increase Awareness and Education about Heart Disease and the Risk Factors of Heart Disease Among Women (H.Res. 522).



This resolution has no budgetary implications.

(continued on next page)

PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A vellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

6) Multidistrict Litigation Restoration Act of 2004 (H.R. 1768). This bill allows for the consolidation of certain civil actions within



the Federal judicial system to serve the interest of justice and for the convenience of the parties and witnesses. It also allows Federal judges to determine compensatory damages in such consolidated cases under certain conditions. Enacting this bill would not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

7) Community Recognition Act of 2003 (H.R. 3095). This bill authorizes the chief elected official of a locality,



in the event of the death of a present or former official of that locality, to proclaim that the national flag be flown at half staff. Enacting this bill would not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

- 8) Bureau of Engraving and Printing Security Printing Act of 2004 (H.R. 3786). The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to produce currency, postage stamps, and other security documents for foreign governments on a reimbursable basis. No estimate had been formally prepared as of the date of the preparation of this *Budget Week*, but the bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.
- 9) District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act (H.R. 2993).



This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to issue during 2009 redesigned quarter dollars commemorating the District of Columbia and the U.S. Territories. Any increase in offsetting receipts to the U.S. – through sales of proofs of the coins – is likely to be very small.

10) To Authorize the President of the United States to Agree to Certain Amendments to the Agreement Between the United States and Mexico Concerning the Establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank (H.R. 254). This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.



11) Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act (H.R. 3873). This bill reauthorizes various programs, including the national school lunch and breakfast, child and adult care food, after-school snack, summer food service, and special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children [WIC]. It also amends provisions relating to eligibility for and access to such programs. Spending for the programs is subject to

12) Recognizing and Honoring the United States Armed Forces and Supporting the Designation of a National Military Appreciation Month (H.Con.Res. 328). This resolution has no budget implications.

appropriations. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.



13) Lloyd L. Burke Post Office Designation Act (H.R. 3059). This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.



14) Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year [IGY] and Supporting an International Geophysical Year-2 [IGY-2] in 2007-08 (H.Con.Res. 189). This resolution has no budget implications.



Budget Week Page 2

(continued on next page)

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Concurrent Resolution on the Budget (H.Con.Res 393). Bill:



Committee: Budget

Summary:

The resolution is the broad blueprint for overall spending and revenue for the coming fiscal year. Within this framework, it provides spending authority for the committees of the House. These "allocations" to committees are used to enforce the various points of order under the Congressional Budget Act. Legislation that breaches the allocation of budget authority to the committee of jurisdiction is subject to a point of order against its consideration by the House. Similarly, a bill that causes the total amount of spending to be exceeded is also subject to a point of order. This is also true of legislation which causes revenue to be reduced below the level set by the budget resolution.

Major elements of this resolution are as follows:

- The resolution accommodates \$137.6 billion in revenue reduction over the next 5 years to make permanent the expiring provisions of the 2001 and 2003 tax bills.
- The resolution also accommodates an additional \$15 billion in revenue reduction for House-passed tax legislation that may come back to the House in a conference report (such as charitable choice).
- The budget provides \$2.4 trillion in total spending for fiscal year 2005, \$13.1 trillion over fiscal years 2005-09. Total discretionary spending is \$818.736 billion for fiscal year 2005.
- Defense is at the President's requested level of \$402 billion for fiscal year 2005.
- Homeland Security discretionary spending increases by \$4.1 billion, fully accommodating the President's requested increase, less 0.5 percent.
- Overall non-defense, non-homeland security spending is at level funding for fiscal year 2005, with due discretion to the Appropriations Committee for determining priority levels within the overall framework.
- Provides for up to \$50 billion in fiscal year 2005 for additional needed costs associated with operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- The resolution also creates special deficit-neutral reserve funds to help manage legislative initiatives in the following areas: Health insurance for the uninsured: Health insurance for disabled children; Survivor benefits for widows of retired military.
- The budget also directs five House committees to achieve savings of \$1.8 billion in fiscal year 2005 and \$13.2 billion over 5 years.

Cost: This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

Budget Act: This bill does not violate the provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

Prepared by The Committee on the Budget

Budget Week Page 3